

Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

**Thursday, December 19th
Issued: 1100 CST**

National Weather Service

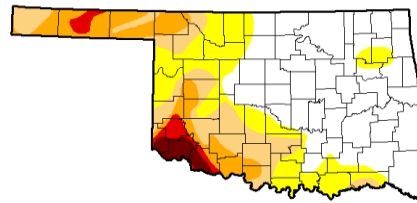
***Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX***

Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Only 5% of state in extreme drought, down from 95% on January 1st.
- New Mexico** Heavy rains (well above normal) in July and September led to drought improvements. 4% of state in extreme drought, down from 91% in early July.
- Texas** Recent heavy rains have lowered the amount of the state in drought to 47%. This is the lowest since December 2010.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	50.24	49.76	29.88	15.43	4.48	2.08
Last Week 11/5/2013	47.85	52.15	30.50	14.58	4.48	2.08
3 Months Ago 8/13/2013	49.40	50.60	32.98	22.62	12.57	0.19
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2013	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06
Start of Water Year 10/1/2012	21.74	78.26	43.00	17.62	4.42	1.45
One Year Ago 11/13/2012	0.00	100.00	100.00	90.53	71.70	31.93

Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

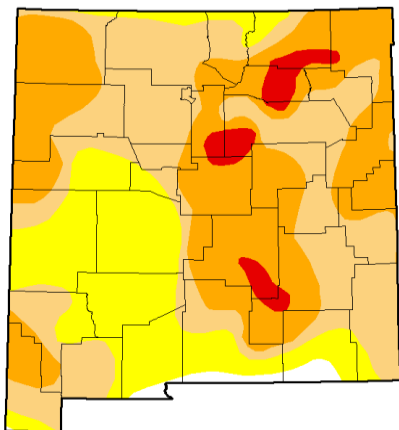
For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico:** Despite near record September wetness, 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs remain at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 13% of capacity.
- Texas:** While short-term drought has improved, long-term (hydrologic) drought remains for the state as a whole. Statewide reservoir capacity is still only at 63% of capacity. Water releases to rice farmers in jeopardy of being cut off for third straight year.
- Persistent drought in northwest TX has resulted in the City of Wichita Falls declaring a Drought Disaster, banning non-essential outdoor watering.
- Oklahoma:** Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 12% of capacity.

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

November 12, 2013
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Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.65	98.35	73.95	37.81	3.39	0.00
Last Week 11/5/2013	1.65	98.35	73.96	37.73	3.39	0.00
3 Months Ago 8/13/2013	0.14	99.86	97.77	93.40	66.46	19.80
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2013	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year 10/1/2012	1.66	98.34	74.92	37.81	3.39	0.00
One Year Ago 11/13/2012	0.07	99.93	98.80	74.51	15.30	0.68

Intensity

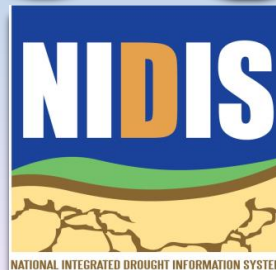
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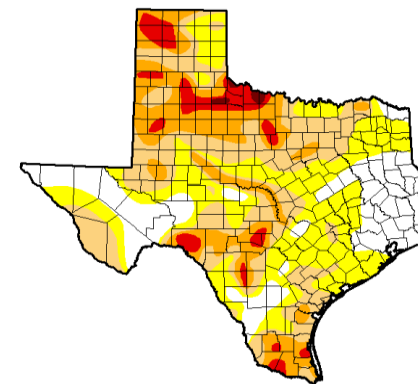


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U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.35	79.65	50.05	23.56	6.25	0.43
Last Week 11/5/2013	20.07	79.93	50.49	23.61	5.43	0.49
3 Months Ago 8/13/2013	2.82	97.18	87.90	65.92	20.64	3.84
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2013	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year 10/1/2012	6.62	93.38	70.95	25.08	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 11/13/2012	10.54	89.46	69.59	36.99	18.92	6.12

Intensity

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D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

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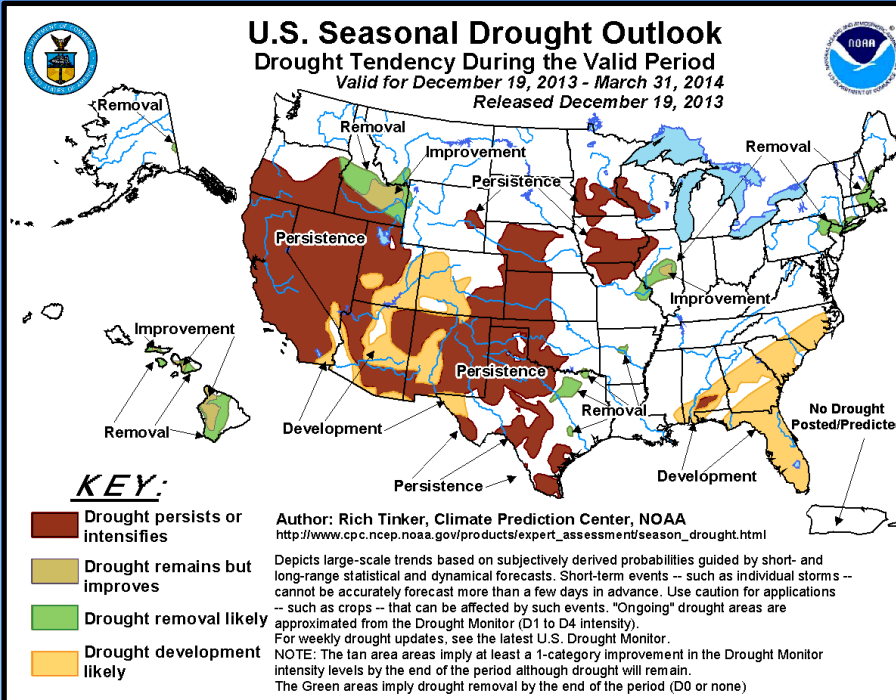
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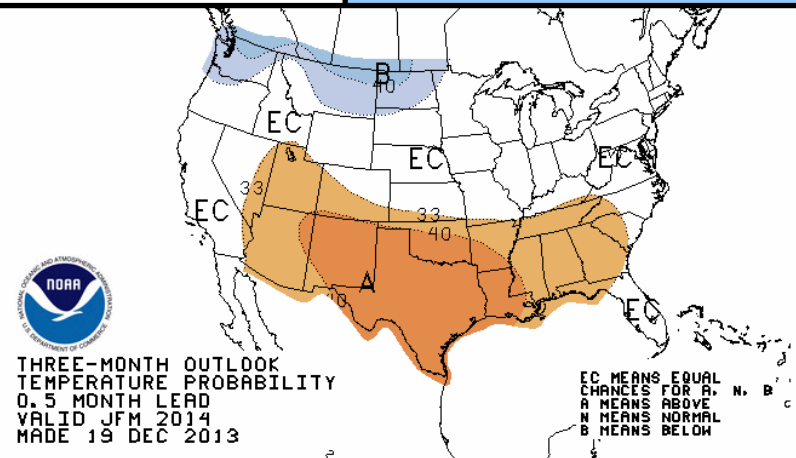
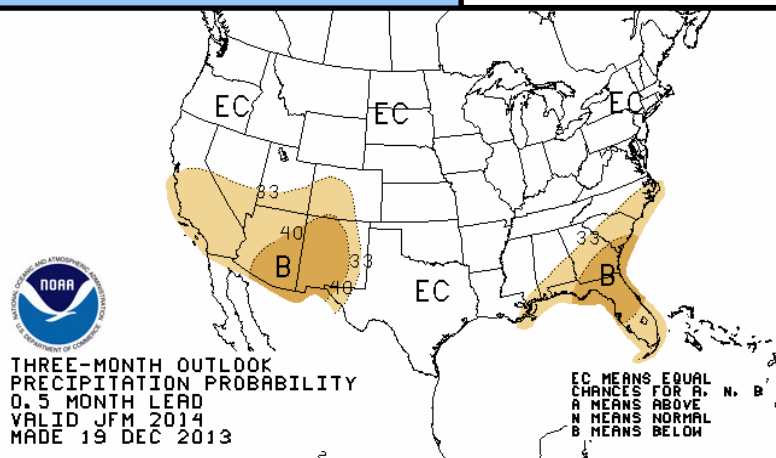
3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Increased chances for below normal precipitation expected for nearly all NM.
- Generally, the winter months are among the driest months of the year in all 3 states, lessening chances for significant drought improvement.
- Strong probability of drought redeveloping and/or worsening across NM.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for above normal temperatures for all of NM, OK, and TX.
- High confidence forecast.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water deficits.



Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Continued drought improvement forecast across east TX. Drought to persist or worsen in NM and much of TX panhandle, northwest TX, southwest OK, south TX.
- Drought forecast to redevelop across portions of far west TX, and parts of NM that are currently drought free.



Information provided by:
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This information along with other drought
resources also available on the
Southern Plains drought.gov web portal

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

